

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4208
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0388

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, BU, JA
SUBJECT: ZHIVKOV VISIT TO JAPAN

REF: TOKYO 976

1. JAPANESE EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED US WITH LIST OF BULGARIAN
DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING STATE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND
BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (BCP) FIRST SECRETARY TODOR
ZHIVKOV DURING HIS MARCH 13-18 VISIT TO JAPAN.

2. DELEGATION INCLUDES:

- A. PETUR MLADENOV, FOREIGN MINISTER AND POLITBURO MEMBERBO
- B. NACHO PAPAZOV, CHAIRMAN OF STATE COMMSTEE FOR
SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL PROGRESS, MEMBER OF THE SECRETARIAT
OF THE BCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND FORMER BULGARIAN AMBASSA-
DOR TO JAPAN;
- C. ANDREY LUKANOV, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS AND BULGARIA'S CEMA REP;
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- D. KHRISTO KHRISTOV, MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE;
- E. MILKO BLAEV, ZHIVKOV'S CHEF DE CABINET AS CHAIRMAN
OF STATE COUNCIL;
- F. VLADIMIR ZHIVKOV, ZHIVKOV'S 25-YEAR-OLD SON, BELIEVED

TO BE A LOW-RANKING ARMY OFFICER;

G. LTGEN. ILIYA KASHEV, DEPARTMENT HEAD AT COUNCIL OF STATE;

H. AMBASSADOR BORIS DZHIBROV, CHIEF OF STATE PROTOCOL; AND,
I. ZHIVKOV'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN AND AT LEAST TWO BODYGUARDS.

3. DELEGATION REFLECTS FACT THAT TRADE WILL BE MAIN TOPIC OF VISIT. TWO INTERESTING FOOTNOTES ARE, FIRST, COMMENT THAT MFA OFFICIAL MADE TO JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICER THAT IT WAS GOB POLICY NOT TO INCLUDE MORE THAN ONE POLITBURO MEMBER (IN ADDITION TO ZHIVKOV) IN DELEGATIONS TO NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, AND , SECOND, INCLUSION OF ZHIVKOV'S SON IN DELEGATION, GIVING FURTHER CIRCULATION TO TALK OF GROWING "CULT OF FAMILY".

4. ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND BULGARIA HAVE NOT SEEMED TO DEVELOP TO THE SATISFACTION OF EITHER SIDE. DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE BASHIKAROV'S VISIT TO TOKYO LAST FALL AND NOW ZHIVKOV'S VISIT ARE BOTH AIMED AT BRINGING ABOUT AN IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL ECONOMIC TIES. ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH COMMERCIAL OFFICER IN SOFIA, JAPAN GRANTED A \$208 MILLION CREDIT TO BULGARIA IN EARLY 1977 AT VERY GOOD (BUT UNSPECIFIED) TERMS. HOWEVER, THE BULGARIANS WERE ONLY ABLE TO DRAW DOWN \$4 MILLION.
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5. ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE, TWO SIDES ARE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVING CONTAINERIZATION FACILITIES AT EITHER VARNA OR BURGAS, AND THE BULGARIANS HAVE ASKED THE JAPANESE TO CONSIDER BUILDING AN AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTER AND TO SET UP A MODEL FARM IN SILISTRA.
GARTHOFF

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